

# MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



## *Office of Public Information*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **KATHRYNE A. O'GRADY NAMED CHILD WELFARE SERVICES DIRECTOR FOR STATE COURT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

LANSING, MI, October 30, 2003 – Attorney Kathryne A. O'Grady has been appointed Child Welfare Services Director for the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), the administrative arm of the Michigan Supreme Court. O'Grady, who starts in the position on November 3, will oversee the Foster Care Review Board Program, the Court Improvement Program and other SCAO functions relating to child welfare.

"I am delighted to have someone of Ms. O'Grady's experience -- family court referee, attorney, educator, and prosecutor -- in this position," said Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan. "Her expertise will be invaluable as the judicial branch addresses child welfare issues. We are indeed fortunate to have her on board."

Before joining SCAO, O'Grady served for six years as a family division referee in Wayne County Circuit Court, where she handled juvenile delinquency and child protective matters. From 1995 to 1997, she was the program manager for the University of Michigan Law School Child Welfare Law Resource Center, a research and training facility for judges and child welfare attorneys. From 1991 to 1995, she served as a deputy defender with the Legal Aid and Defender Association, representing children in delinquency and child protective proceedings. Her experience includes eight years in private law practice, where she handled juvenile, family, and criminal cases, as well as other types of litigation. From 1983 to 1984, she served as an assistant prosecutor in the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, representing the State of Michigan in juvenile delinquency and child protective proceedings.

O'Grady has taught undergraduate and graduate courses, including classes in criminal and juvenile justice. She has served as an adjunct faculty member at Wayne State University, Siena Heights University, Oakland Community College, and the American Institute for Paralegal Studies. O'Grady has also taught at numerous seminars for judges, attorneys, and child welfare workers. Her publications include the *Michigan Child Welfare Law Journal*, where she served as publisher and Founding Editor-in-Chief.

O'Grady holds a law degree from the Detroit College of Law. She received her B.A. with distinction from the University of Michigan, where she majored in political science and psychology. Her professional associations include the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Referees Association of Michigan, and the Children's Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan, which she has served as chairperson.

O'Grady and her husband, Tim Akers, reside in Clinton Township.

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